



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Date: February 16, 2009

Contact: Rex Gilliland (928) 226-5025

Reckless Burning

Flagstaff, AZ – The Coconino County Sheriff's Office and the United States Forest Service are seeking the public's help in identifying the person/s responsible for a wild land fire.

In the early morning hours of Monday October 19, 2009 a forest fire was reported to the Forest Service and local law enforcement. The fire was south of Forest Service Road 418, an area north of the San Francisco Peaks. The subsequent investigation determined the fire started between 4:00PM and 7:45 PM Sunday October 18, 2009 just south of Forest Service road 418 and Potato Tank in Game Management Unit 7E. The fire was south of the White Horse Hills in an area commonly known as Potato Flat.

Evidence discovered at the scene by investigators indicated unknown persons had built a small fire to cook and the fire was either left unattended or got away from them. The fire destroyed one seasonal cabin and burned over 98 acres of both wild land and private land.

Investigators have reason to believe the person/s responsible for this fire were recreating in the area or looking at the changing leaves. There was an elk hunt in progress at the time and investigators believe that hunters or other outdoor enthusiasts may have information helpful to the investigation.

If you have any information, or witnessed anything in the area of the Potato Flats, please call Lt. Rex Gilliland of the Coconino County Sheriff's Office at 928-226-5025 or Jon Nelson of the United States Forest Service at 928-527-3509.

For more information, contact Rex Gilliland (928-226-5025).

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<http://www.coconino.az.gov/sheriff.aspx?id=3593>